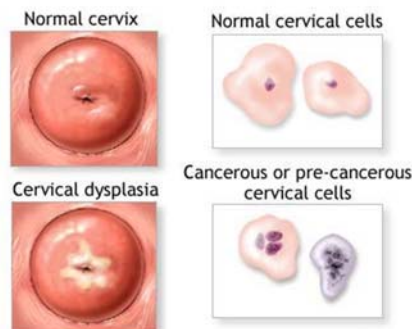


Utah Cancer Control Program

Cervical Dysplasia Fact Sheet



ADAM

The development of cervical cancer is gradual and begins as a pre-cancerous condition called dysplasia. It is usually a slow-growing cancer and if caught early can be successfully treated. Routine Pap smears can detect early changes in the cells of the cervix allowing cervical cancer to be caught early.

WHAT IS CERVICAL DYSPLASIA?

Cervical dysplasia is a term used to describe the appearance of abnormal cells on the surface of the cervix, the lowest part of a woman's uterus. Changes in cervical tissue are classified as mild, moderate, or severe. While dysplasia itself does not cause health problems, it is considered to be a *precancerous condition.

WHAT FACTORS INCREASE THE RISK OF GETTING CERVICAL DYSPLASIA?

1. Multiple sex partners.
2. Early onset of sexual activity (before age 18).
3. Early childbearing.
4. Cigarette smoking.
5. Sexually transmitted diseases especially the human papillomavirus (HPV), genital herpes, or HIV Infection.

HOW IS CERVICAL DYSPLASIA PREVENTED?

1. Postponing sexual activity until 18 years or older.
2. Practice mutual monogamy and use of condoms.

HOW IS CERVICAL DYSPLASIA DETECTED?

Usually the abnormal cells are first discovered on a routine Pap test. When abnormal cells are seen on a Pap test, the cervix must be examined more closely to determine the exact nature of the abnormality. To do this your health care provider can perform either of the following tests:

1. A Colposcopy is the examination of the cervix under magnification with a colposcope.

2. A Biopsy is a procedure in which a small piece of tissue is taken from the cervix and viewed under a microscope.

WHAT ARE THE TREATMENT OPTIONS?

1. Cryotherapy
2. Laser Treatment
3. Loop Excision
4. Cone Biopsy
5. Hysterectomy.

WHY TREAT CERVICAL DYSPLASIA?

*If left untreated, dysplasia sometimes progresses to an early form of cancer known as cervical carcinoma in situ, and eventually to invasive cervical cancer.

PAP SMEAR SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATIONS:

*All women over 18 years old (or earlier if sexually active) should have a yearly Pap smear.

*Women should undergo a Pap smear every year

*Women with a history of cervical dysplasia will need Pap smears more frequently.

*Some women can have Pap smears less frequently (every 2-3 years). This option should be discussed with your health care provider